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MARTINE CARROLL APPOINTED AS SENIOR JUDGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

BOSTON – April 27, 2007 – Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump announced today that Newton resident Martine Carroll has been appointed as Senior Judge of the Department of Industrial Accidents, effective May 7, 2007.

“Martine Carroll has over three decades of experience with the workers’ compensation system as a claim representative, arbitrator, litigator, lawyer and judge,” said Bump. “In her fifteen years of service as a judge at the Department, she has earned a reputation as a formidable talent in her field. We are very fortunate to have someone of Judge Carroll’s caliber in this vital position.”

Carroll served from 1992 to 1998 as an administrative judge adjudicating disputes and is currently one of six administrative law judges serving on the Reviewing Board in the department’s Division of Dispute Resolution. The reviewing board is the last step in a four-step dispute resolution process. Reviewing board decisions are published and, in large measure, shape and interpret the Workers’ Compensation Act.

As Senior Judge, Carroll will head the Division of Dispute Resolution, which adjudicates contested workers’ compensation cases, overseeing more than one hundred conciliators, judges, managers and staff in the Division’s five units.

Citing the Department’s track record of increasing its efficiency, effectiveness and professionalism, Carroll said, “I am eager to continue the ongoing program of reform that I and so many others at DIA have been involved in for the past fifteen years.” Since the late 1990s, DIA staff have cut the average time to resolve a case by more than 25%.

In Judge Carroll’s view, “the current crop of judges and conciliators is the most professional and effective group” since she first entered the workers’ compensation field.

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“I know how important our work is at the Department of Industrial Accidents, and I look forward to working with Commissioner Buckley to resolve workers’ compensation disputes in as fair, efficient and swift a manner as possible.”

Prior to state service, Carroll had extensive experience in the private sector, as a civil litigator with the Boston law firm of Smith, Sullivan, Carroll, Valentine & Malay. Judge Carroll received a BA cum laude in sociology from Boston University, and earned her JD cum laude at New England School of Law, where she was on the editorial staff of the law review.

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